**Sports Facilities in Rural Areas**

2325. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is acute shortage of means of sports for entertainment of youths in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to start effective, programme for youths of rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) 'Sports' is a State subject and it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to create sports facilities in all areas including rural areas. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in this direction, the Central Government do provides financial assistance on matching basis, subject to prescribed ceilings, to them for creation of sports facilities under the scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure. One time financial assistance, without matching contribution, of upto Rs. 1.50 lakh is also provided to rural schools for development of playfield and purchase of sports equipments under the scheme of Grants to Rural Schools.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.